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JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Long-term Haiti relief plan announced

Tony Martin
Associate Editor

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ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BGR and local reports) — Southern Baptists' long-term relief response to the Haiti earthquake will be led in Haiti by a six-member coordination group, making plans that will be implemented by a team of experienced disaster relief specialists who will work through Haitian Baptist churches.

That decision was made Feb. 11-12 in Alpharetta, Ga., by representatives of four Southern Baptist organizations meeting at the North American Mission Board's offices. The relief effort will be coordinated by representatives on the ground from Baptist Global Response (BGR), the Florida Baptist Convention, International Mission Board (IMB), North American Mission Board (NAMB) and two Haitian Baptist conventions: the Confraternite Missionnaire Baptiste d' Haiti and the Convention Baptiste d'Haïti.

Fritz Wilson, the Florida Baptist Convention's disaster relief director, will serve as the incident commander on the ground in Haiti. Wilson's team, which will include experienced Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers, will implement countrywide ministry strategy set by the coordinating group, said Jim Brown, U.S. director for Baptist Global Response.

"The coordination group will begin working immediately on identifying specific projects and locations, which in turn will determine specific volunteer needs," Brown said. "They will be in constant communication with the incident command team as decisions are made. There are still many internal logistics, issues to be resolved — lodging, security, transportation and translation — before teams can begin working on the ground."

Based on reports from the disaster relief efforts over the past two weeks, five priorities for urgent and intermediate response have been identified: food distribution, shelter, water purification, medical teams and chaplains.

A "mirror" team in the U.S. will provide communication and mobilize resources, both financial and human, for projects identified by the "coordination" group, Brown added. At press time, news services are reporting that the Port-au-Prince airport will reopen to commercial traffic Feb. 19, making it possible for volunteers to travel directly into Haiti, rather than driving in from the Dominican Republic.

Right now, Southern Baptists are being asked to fill "Buckets of Hope" that will be sent to Haiti in the coming months. Churches and individuals can purchase and assemble five-gallon buckets for Haitian families packed with enough food to feed a family for a week. Even after Haitians use the supplies, the bucket can serve multiple uses for a family. Visit www.namb.net/bucketsofhope to find a list of items to pack in the buckets.

According to Don Gann, consultant, Men's Ministry Department, Mississippi Baptist



PLANS FINALIZED — Leaders of Southern Baptists' response to the Haiti earthquake met last week in Alpharetta, Ga., to finalize plans for a long-term relief effort for that devastated country. Don Gann, consultant in the Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, represented Mississippi Baptists at the meeting. (BP photo)

Convention Board, "Southern Baptists could touch virtually every person in Haiti with the buckets. The problem to date has been getting supplies to Haiti 'over the fence.' There are literally miles and miles of supplies at the airport but hasn't been any real safe way for volunteers to distribute those supplies.

"What Florida [the Florida Baptist Convention] has had great success with is to work through the Haitian Baptist churches, because the Haitian pastors can distribute supplies with little fanfare. When Anglos try to distribute supplies, it becomes a riot. There are about 900 Haitian Baptist churches throughout the country, and they are excited about the opportunity of doing the buckets. They have made arrangements for trucks and drivers to handle supplies. They have a system in place that they are very confident in."

Churches and individuals can deliver buckets to the following locations. BUCKETS SHOULD BE DROPPED OFF AT THESE SITES ON MARCH 8, 9, OR 10:

Lee Baptist Association - Tupelo area -
 Marc Howard, AMD
 2508 South Gloster Street
 Tupelo, MS 38801
 (662) 566-1700

North Central Association - Grenada area -
Lowell Ingram, AMD
1045 Fairfield Ave.
Grenada, MS. 38901
(662) 226-5071

Lebanon Association - George Berger, AMD
Drop-off location - 38th Avenue Baptist
Church, Hattiesburg
419 North 38th Avenue
Hattiesburg, MS 39401-6718
(601) 261-2771

Mississippi Baptist Convention Building -
Jackson - Men's Ministry Department
515 Mississippi Street
Jackson, MS. 39205
(601) 292-3335
(800) 748-1651 ext. 335

First Baptist Church, Clinton, MS. -
Paul Cassibry, bucket coordination contact
100 East College Street
Clinton, MS 39056-4246
(601) 924-6716

X-tended Missions Network -
Wade Steelman, AMD
John Hampton, bucket coordination contact
2018 Mcingvale Rd
Hernando, MS 38632
(662) 429-5033

Jackson Association – Philip Price, AMD
John Turner, bucket coordination contact
Ingalls Avenue Baptist Church, Pascagoula
4505 Ingalls Ave
Pascagoula, MS 39581-2457
(228) 762-9235

Lauderdale Association - Meridian Area -
Greg Massey, AMD
5521 Clinton St.
Marion, MS. 39342
(601) 483-1419

**Gulf Coast Association -
Steve Mooneyham, AMD
11201 Old Hwy 49
Gulfport, MS 39503
(228) 832-4311**

Central Hills Baptist Retreat —
Jim Ray, Camp Director
6377 Attala Road 4227
West, MS 39192
(662) 289-9730

MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

Oher, Vick look back on personal journeys

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (BP and local reports) — Former Ole Miss All-American Michael Oher, offensive tackle for the Baltimore Ravens of the National Football League (NFL), missed out on earning the NFL's top honor for a rookie, but he made a pitch that Sandra Bullock should win the Academy Award for playing the part of his adoptive mother, Leigh Ann Tuohy, in the hit movie, *The Blind Side*.

Percy Harvin, wide receiver and kick returner for the Minnesota Vikings, beat out Oher and three other nominees for NFL Rookie of the Year honors.

Oher started every game during the 2009 NFL season, 11 games at right offensive tackle and five games at left offensive tackle. In his first post-season game against the New England Patriots on Jan. 10, he did not allow a single sack in the 33-14 win. The Ravens eventually lost in the playoffs to the Indianapolis Colts, who lost to the New Orleans Saints in the Super Bowl.

Oher said the Rookie of the Year nomination was an honor. "Coming from where I come from, it's been a long road," Oher said. "To come in and play right away and to have the type of season I had, it's been a break for me and I had a lot of fun."

The movie, *The Blind Side*, is the story of Oher's rise from poverty and instability — and his ultimate rise to the NFL — after he was taken in by a Christian family in his hometown of Memphis. The movie was a surprise box office hit last year, earning more than \$150 million and an Oscar nomination for its star, Sandra Bullock.

Bullock portrayed Leigh Ann Tuohy, whose family took in the homeless Oher when he was a teen. The strong Christian foundation of the Tuohy family is realistically portrayed in the movie, and Christian themes are not suppressed.

Oher called the movie inspiring. "Sandra Bullock did a great job, and the other actors and actresses," Oher said. "It was great."

When Baptist Press asked him what his NFL teammates who watched the movie thought about it, Oher said

they told him it was a "great story." He also shared that some poetic license was taken with the story.

"It wasn't me, it wasn't me," he laughed. Pushed to explain, he said the football scenes were off. "I've been playing football since the eighth grade," Oher said. "I've always started... so I've always understood the game. I'm a fan of the game."

The movie depicts Oher as realizing his potential in the middle of one of his high school football games, almost as if it dawned on him in a revelation. Oher has previously contended, as he did in the Baptist Press interview, that the scene in the movie was not the case in real life.

Meanwhile, God's redemptive power in his once-troubled life was Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Michael Vick's theme at

the annual Super Bowl Breakfast on Saturday prior to the big game.

Speaking publicly for the first time as an adult about his faith in Jesus Christ, Vick said God was again the first priority in his life. He also shared for the first time about the role former Indianapolis Colts head coach Tony Dungy played in his restoration with God.

"I feel I'm in the back seat now and God is in the front," Vick told Baptist Press in a post-breakfast interview. "Five months ago I was worried with what was going to happen (with the NFL), but now I'm more at peace. God has taken it over. I don't have to worry about being dynamic. God is in control of that."

Vick spoke standing beside Dungy before 1,100 fans, in his first-ever retelling of the role faith played in his life at the maximum security prison in Leavenworth, Kansas.

"I wanted a chance to redeem myself," he said. "Pre-incarceration it was all about me. When I got to prison, I realized I couldn't do it anymore. The one thing I could rely on was my faith in God."

While he has a peace from God in his life and doesn't fear his future on the field or off, Vick said he is still haunted by his deeds of his previous life. "The toughest thing was being away from my kids (ages seven, five, and two). I missed 18 months of their life that I will never get back.

They still have questions [about] why I went away for so long and those are questions they shouldn't have to ask."

Dungy, a longtime supporter of the annual breakfast sponsored by Athletes in Action and Campus Crusade for Christ, said organizers of this year's banquet asked him if Vick would be willing to share his faith publicly, one day before Super Bowl XLIV.

"I thought it was a good venue for Michael and he agreed. People know about my faith, but they needed to hear about Michael's. I thought he did a very good job."

Vick said he became a Christian in high school in Virginia and began reading his Bible, but the more success he achieved on the football field, the less he needed God. "I was so self-centered, I forgot about the Lord," he admitted.

After going to jail for bankrolling a dog fighting ring and losing almost every material thing in his life, Vick said he realized how far he had fallen. "I got back to my roots. The only thing I could do in prison was fall back on God. I wanted to do things right, that I didn't do the first time."

Dungy came into Vick's life in his final months in the federal prison. Vick's lawyer was from the same hometown as Dungy's wife. Dungy visited Vick in Leavenworth and began to help him put his life back together and to help him restore his walk with God.

They still keep in weekly contact and Dungy helped Vick get a backup job with the

Eagles this season.

Vick admitted his first year out of prison and back in the NFL was a struggle. "I thought the transition would be easy, but it was a hard for me. I did things I never thought I would do, like studying and working by myself. I stayed close to my faith, constant in prayer, and close to Tony's calls and texts."

While the Eagles hold his NFL rights for another year, his once-unlimited football future is far from certain.

Vick said he's determined to leave his life in God's hands and leave the results up to Him.

"The main thing is I don't want to disappoint God," he said. "I don't want to disappoint my family, Tony or Roger (NFL commissioner Goddell). God has blessed me with a second chance that is something I will value forever. I don't want to let Him down."

After Vick's emotional appearance, former Arizona Cardinals quarterback Kurt Warner accepted the AIA Bart Starr Award, annually given to the player who exhibits character and leadership on and off the field.

"These awards are simply a platform to give glory to God in my life," Warner said.

He explained his own personal transformation in his life, shared the plan of salvation, and invited people to accept Jesus Christ into their life for the first time.

Among the people at the breakfast were Indianapolis head coach Jim Caldwell and several members of his team, who briefly talked about the importance of faith in their lives.

Looking back

10 years ago

Ribbon cutting ceremonies and an open house are held Feb. 12 at the assisted living facility of Trace Point Retirement Community, Clinton, a joint venture of Mississippi Baptist-affiliated Baptist Health Systems in Jackson and Seattle-based Columbia Pacific Management, Inc.

20 years ago

Texas pastor and Kosciusko native Morris Chapman will be the conservative candidate for president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Houston, Tex., pastor John Bisagno announces his plans to nominate Chapman at the SBC annual meeting in New Orleans.

30 years ago

A Southern Baptist Convention teletypewriter network, believed to be the first leased wire communications system operated by a denomination, goes into operation Mar. 1. W.C. Fields, former editor of *The Baptist Record* and director of public relations for the executive committee of the SBC, said 10 cities would be on the network stretching from Washington, DC, to Wichita, Kansas.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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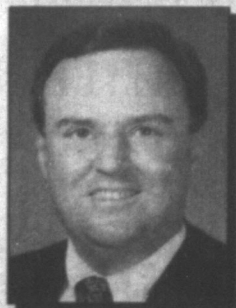
1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



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Yes, America is exceptional

In our mixed-up modern culture, there are people in this country who so despise America that they have earned a nickname: the Hate America crowd. No matter how much good America does, it's never good enough. No matter how many wrongs have been righted by her noble people, the Hate America crowd is never satisfied.

It is true that America is far from perfect. The Trail of Tears and internment camps and Selma and Philadelphia provide plenty of proof to that effect, but it's also true that we have corrected many of those mistakes of the past and don't intend to repeat them in the future.

One wouldn't know it from listening to the Hate America crowd — which seems at times to have overtaken academia, the national news media, and politicians of certain persuasions — but Americans are also the most generous people on the planet. Haiti is merely the latest reincarnation of that fact.

While economic giants like China and Saudi Arabia have contributed a pittance (if anything at all) to the earthquake relief effort for the residents of

the poorest country in the world, America has stepped up as it always has and Southern Baptists are leading the way once again.

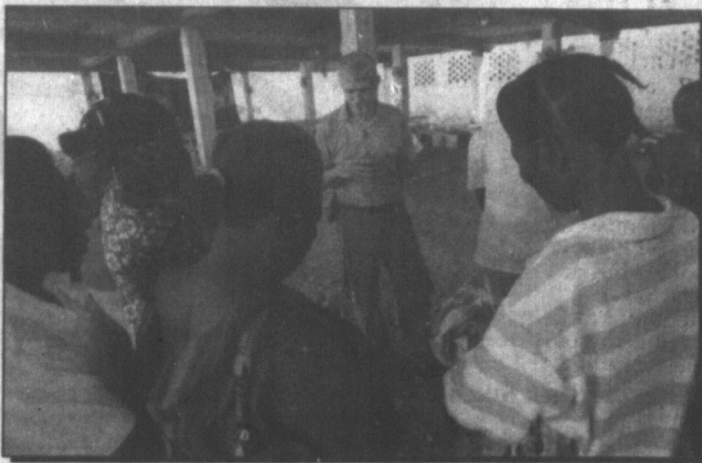
"It's an incredible privilege to be able to help the Haitians as we have," said Rick Picerno, an orthopedic surgeon and member of First Church in Jacksonville, FL. He helped organize and recruit a Florida medical team that is working out of a makeshift field hospital across from the destroyed presidential palace in Port-au-Prince. They are determined to stay as long as they are needed.

A Mississippi Baptist disaster relief team is already on the scene too, operating a small hospital out of a Haitian Baptist church across the street from the national capitol building.

"I thank God and the American people who have come to Haiti to help with that tragedy," said Potus Ketnil, a young Haitian woman who was brought to the U.S. along with her two-year old child after the earthquake and is now under the care of a Haitian Baptist church in Miami. She was forced to leave her husband behind; he hasn't been seen since the earthquake struck.

Southern Baptists and Mississippi Baptists will continue to be at the forefront of relief efforts in Haiti and around the world, because that's who we are. Jesus changed us and remade us in His image when we accepted him as our Lord and Savior.

That's who we are as Christians, and that's who we are as Americans. To the Hate America crowd, understand this: America is indeed an exceptional nation, and Americans prove it every day in places like Haiti. American Christians are an important part of that exceptionalism. Nothing the haters say or do will ever change that.



PRAYER FOR BETTER DAYS — International Mission Board worker Mark Rutledge prays with members of Shiloh Baptist Church in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, after the city and surrounding area were devastated by a massive earthquake. Several families who lost their homes during the quake are living underneath a blue tarp tied to what's left of the church building. (BP photo)

As for those American Christians and Southern Baptists and Mississippi Baptists, this time is now to press on with our mission. Time may be short to save those who don't know Jesus.

"God passed through Haiti after the earthquake and many of the people heard God's voice because His true church — the people — was outside the walls of (their church) buildings," said Fritz Wilson, disaster relief director for the Florida Baptist Convention. "Maybe God is trying to tell the church in the U.S. to do the same. Get outside the walls and let people see, hear, and feel His love."

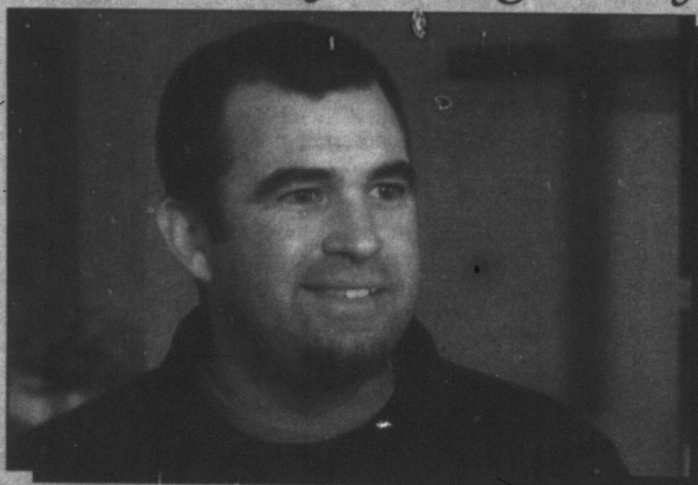
Southern Baptist missionary serving as Olympics chaplain

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, Canada (BP) — When the 16-day Winter Olympic Games began on Feb. 12, Southern Baptist resort missionary Derek Spain began his stint as one of the official Vancouver Olympic Committee chaplains at the Athletes Village in Whistler, where many of the competitions will take place.

Spain, a Georgia native who now ministers in Lake Placid, N.Y., also is the spiritual mentor and pastor to U.S. bobsled driver John Napier, himself a believer who Spain led to a closer walk with Christ over the last year as Napier trained to compete in the Vancouver Olympics.

Since his teen years, Spain has worked himself up from parking lot attendant, ticket taker, and track sweeper at the winter Olympic Training Center at Lake Placid, the site of the 1980 Winter Olympic Games and a mecca for aspiring winter Olympians.

Spain now deals in hand-warmers, Bibles, and even cowbells — whatever it takes — in order to share the Gospel with and minister to the dozens of world-class Olympic athletes who either live in Lake Placid or pass through, plus the thousands of fans who come to see them



Spain

compete.

Not only has Spain served as a resort missionary with Southern Baptists' North American Mission Board (NAMB) since 2001, he also is pastor of Lake Placid Church; director of North Country Ministries, an outreach to the athletes in Lake Placid; and special ministries consultant for the Baptist Convention of New York.

"Some of the athletes live here year-round, either at the Olympic

Training Center or in town," Spain said. "Some of the athletes we may only see for a few weeks a year."

Spain described Olympic athletes in such sports as figure skating, hockey, skiing, or bobsledding as high achievers who set high personal goals. They are dedicated to their sport and disciplined in their workout, as well as eating and sleeping regimens in order to compete at a world-class level, he said.

"They do have struggles, though," Spain said. "As they get older and into their 20s and 30s, they are traveling all over the world, living in an unsupervised environment, so there are the challenges and temptations of the world. Even Christian athletes struggle with the issue of pride as they compete for their nation. There's a temptation to be prideful about what they're accomplishing personally."

North Country Ministries encompasses members of Lake Placid Church and Southern Baptist mission teams who travel to Lake Placid from other churches throughout North America. Through the ministry, doors have opened to share Christ through serving and volunteering at winter sports events in the Lake Placid area.

"We take these opportunities to use creative evangelism tools to talk to others about God," Spain said. It may be a "goodie bag" filled with candy, gum, lip balm, and maybe a Gospel tract. It may be handing out free cowbells for spectators to clang when their team does well. (A longtime tradition in Europe, cowbells help make up for the fact that it's tough for fans wearing gloves and mittens to make much noise.)



Practical Principles for Christian Living



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION • VOLUME 12 • ISSUE 2

By Jimmy Porter

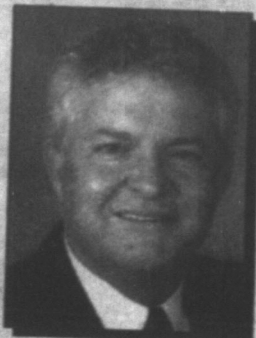
Miss. Baptist Christian Action Comm.

Things are tough across the street at the Capitol. The wants and needs of the citizens of this state are numerous, and they all come at a high price. A few of our legislators think like our children, "money grows on trees." Instead of asking the hard questions they prefer to budget more money and increase spending in hopes the economy will improve.

Then there are some legislators who honestly seek ways to be more creative, cost conscious, and to get a greater return on monies expended. Even though money is tight, this session is important because there are several bills that need to be debated and action taken.

One such bill, The Child Protection Act, SB 2238 has passed out of the Senate and is in the House of Representatives. Hopefully, this bill will get out of committee and go before the full House for consideration. The bill calls for the reporting of a live birth or an abortion by a young lady who is considered by law as a minor. If her pregnancy is the result of statutory rape, the offender needs to

Legislative Action or Inaction?



Porter

be prosecuted. The bill also strengthens a couple of existing laws related to the abortion process. Another bill, SB 2293, is also up for discussion in the House. This bill would provide an avenue for charter schools to possibly become more prevalent in our state. Albert Einstein said, "The only thing that interferes with my learning is my education." Parents are getting more and more disgruntled with a system that is producing results that keep Mississippi last on a national scale. They want alternatives and some legislators are listening.

The support of charter schools should not be viewed as the abandonment of public schools and education. By definition charter schools are elementary or secondary schools in the United States that receive public

money. These schools have been freed from some of the rules, regulations, and statutes that apply to other public schools in exchange for being accountable for producing certain results, as set forth in each schools charter.

Public education in Mississippi is vital, but it can and must be made better if the system itself will allow it. Many problems exist and there are no easy answers. But I feel very strongly that putting more and more money into the current system without some major changes will not produce different results. It seems rather foolish to keep doing the same things each and every year and expecting different if not miraculous results.

Several other bills related to education should be clearly thought out before final passage. Do we need to begin selling advertisements in and on our school buses to raise revenue? Who is going to determine what is appropriate and what is not?

There are other bills that will impact your lives. One such bill changes the way in which you must get certain medications. The legislature sent a bill to the governor for his signature that requires certain over-the-counter cold and sinus medicines

containing the drug ephedrine to become available only by prescription. There is no doubt this will inconvenience many of us, but it will assist our law enforcement in cracking down on the production of the drug crystal methamphetamine or 'meth' that includes ephedrine as one of the ingredients. The dangers of meth along with the high addiction rate cannot be ignored any longer and hopefully this bill will be a step in the right direction.

Quite often the best work of our legislators is reflected in what they do not pass rather than what they do pass. Every year there are bills that do not need to survive the legislative process for various reasons. There are several procedural moves that can stop a bad piece of legislation, and thankfully our representatives and senators use them quite often.

I encourage you to continue praying for your legislators and when you see them, please thank them for representing you and serving the great State of Mississippi.

The author can be contacted at 601-292-3329 or at jporter@christianaction.com.

Chaplain of the Year prays in U.S. House of Representatives

MOBILE, Ala. (BP) — Endel Lee, newly named as National Chaplain of the Year by the Reserve Officers Association of the United States, delivered the prayer on Feb. 9 to open the day's deliberations in the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C.

"I don't consider myself a hero. I'm just a hero helper trying to provide spiritual care in trying and sometimes traumatic circumstances," said Lee, a Southern Baptist chaplain endorsed by the North American Mission Board. His chaplaincy duties have extended into Iraq alongside U.S. troop, to New York City after 9/11, and along the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina.

The opportunity to serve as chaplain of the day in Congress was part of the recognition Lee is receiving as the Chaplain Vincent Robert Capodanno National Chaplain of the Year during the Reserve Officers Association's annual conference on Feb. 8, in Washington.

Currently, Lee serves as deputy chaplain with the Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North in New Orleans, commuting home to Mobile, AL, on weekends. He counsels Marines and sailors, provides pastoral care in times of crisis, conducts funerals, and coordinates a variety of spiritual and physical support for families in crisis.

He also serves as disaster relief chaplaincy coordinator for the North American Mission Board, facilitating the recruitment, training, mobilization, and management of Southern Baptist chaplains during times of personal, community, regional, and national crisis.

Lee was an assistant professor of preaching and pastoral ministry in New Orleans Seminary's Leavell College from 1998-2006.

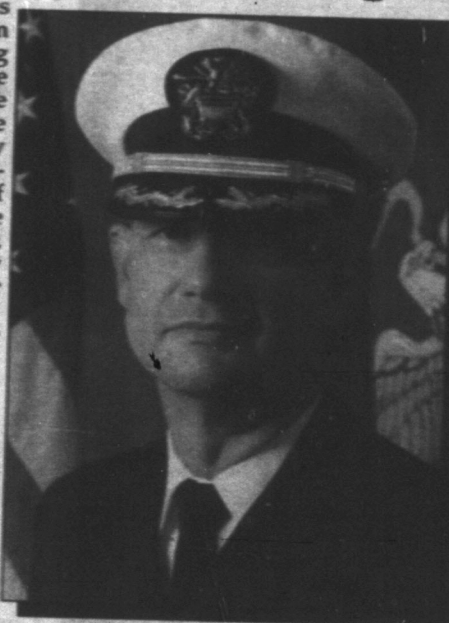
Describing himself as "just a country boy from lower Alabama, just trying to be obedient to God," Lee said he is honored for the opportunity to pray before Congress. "The ministry that it represents, to vocalize a prayer on behalf of the Armed Forces and the leadership of our country, is a humbling opportunity — to speak to God on their behalf," he said.

Lee is a graduate of the University of Mobile who subsequently earned master of divinity, master of religious education, and doctor of philosophy degrees from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth.

While a student at the University of Mobile, Lee enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, accepting a direct commission after graduating in 1985 with a bachelor of arts in theology.

He married fellow graduate Kathy Perkins, whom he met in music class. (They have two sons, Hunter, 19, and Cody, 17.)

After obtaining his M.Div. from Southwestern, Lee trans-



Lee

ferred to the Navy Reserve as a chaplain in 1993.

"Chaplain Lee has seen significant periods of active duty over the past nine years," according to a press release from the Reserve Officers

Association. "Such duty began with Operation Guarding Liberty and service with the U.S. Coast Guard in New York City immediately after Sept. 11, 2001."

"He then deployed in 2005 for Operation Iraqi Freedom as the Camp Fallujah Protestant coordinator and battalion chaplain, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force. Upon returning from that deployment, he participated in Hurricane Katrina response with the U.S. Coast Guard's District 8 on the Gulf Coast."

"In 2008 he served with the Naval Special Warfare Development Group and then transitioned to his current assignment," the release stated.

Lee said he has "a deep passion to care for service members and their families. I was exposed to the military culture young in life, and you really need to know that military mindset to relate to people and their demands in that setting."

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ZKB YVKT PAW?

WBQM JYNQ: JYQOT-
YSK

Clue: J = F

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Third John Eleven

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ELDER SPEAK

Some of you may not be aware of the term, elder speak, but you would probably recognize it if you heard it. It is the kind of speech that people begin to use when they walk into a room of an aging parent or friend whether in the hospital, nursing home, or in the person's home. They would never speak to someone out on the street this way. Using this kind of demeaning, un-adult language treats the person rather childishly. In a patronizing way, it puts them down and gives them little respect. Granted there are times in the aging process when people lose some of their sharpness and may not be aware of the full broad range of life that is going on around them in the world. They may not even be able to recall some of the immediate facts related to family or life at hand. Even so, elder speak or speaking down to them does not lift them up and more often than not, it is not healthy.

Sometimes people get frustrated, exasperated, and emotionally perturbed because they are having difficulty dealing with an elder adult. They can be hard to deal with but adding elder speak to our arsenal probably adds to their frustration and exasperation about life. What should we do? I would only suggest a few things that may be helpful and surely, clearly recognize that these do not come from an expert.

The first suggestion I would give is be kind, not blind. The change that needs to take place in our treatment is to remain kind to our elders. When I say not blind, I am referring to the fact that they are in many ways still the person they have always been. I am fully aware of the fact that many of you can say, "Well, not my parent because of the loss of memory and responsiveness, they are no longer here." I do understand, but they did not choose to walk that road any more than you did. Keep in mind the loving father or caring mother that they were.

MS POSITIONS

UNITY BAPTIST CHURCH, MOSELLE, is seeking a Minister of Music. Full-time position available. If interest send resume to: Unity Baptist Church, 2387 Hwy. 11 South, Moselle, MS, 39459.

BETHESDA BAPTIST CHURCH, TERRY, Miss., seeking P/T Youth Minister. Send resumes to: Youth Search Committee, 13628 Midway Road, Terry, Miss. 39170 or email: bethesdaoffice@bellsouth.net.

BREWER BAPTIST CHURCH, is seeking a P/T Youth and Children's Director that can help us prepare future leaders for an eternity, not just for today. Resumes will be received through February 28, 2010. Please send your resume to 24 Otho Sellers Rd., Richton, MS 39476 or email ynymistry@yahoo.com.

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING a P/T Music/Youth Minister. Send resumes to Bethel Baptist Church, c/o Bill Finch, 500 S. Main, Water Valley, Ms., 38965-3327 or Email bfinches@gmail.com. Tel. 662-473-3667.



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Kindness is always in order. When Paul wrote to the Ephesians and said, "Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another even as God for Christ sake has forgiven you," (Eph. 4:32), he put in place a strong, transforming bond that is good for every day of life. Keep your eyes open. Do not be blind. See what is taking place in a person's life and then speak, respond, act, and react in kindness.

The second suggestion I would offer is to instill, not kill. Of course, I am not talking about taking the person's life. I am talking about instilling dignity, self-worth, value, and deepening relationships rather than killing those things and making them less important. Anyone that lives to a ripe old age will experience enough things that pass away. They will lose features of health, mobility will diminish, and their eyesight may not be keen. There will be degrees of hearing loss, but each of us can bring to them a continued strong relational bond that we help maintain, sustain, and instill in our connection with them.

The other day I offered to help a man who was helping his father who was on a walker. I knew that nearby there was a wheelchair and I offered to go and get it. I knew that we could get him in the wheelchair and probably help him get to the car more safely and a whole lot quicker. His son shook his head no. When he had an appropriate moment away from his dad he said, "He does not want to be on that walker, and he sure does not want to be in a wheelchair." With great effort on his father's part, the son took his time and assisted him. They got out of the building to the car, and in a small but very meaningful way, the son

instilled a degree of confidence in his dad's mobility. For the same reason, helping someone get in a wheelchair and be mobile can be a wonderful experience. Sometimes it is difficult, but it is worth the effort.

My final thought is to compensate, not retaliate. While I would encourage you not to resort to elder speak, it is important that you cease the diminishing aspects of a person's life and at times just simply compensate for them. Do not get into a badgering, pushing, shoving, or arguing state of mind because the results will be that everyone lives in the same pit of frustration. My father-in-law was in his 80's and still very active, but his hearing was not what it used to be. Of course, in time he got checked out and needed hearing aids. He got his hearing aids and sure enough, they worked, but he did not wear them all of the time.

One day when he had the television blaring out at about 9000 decibels and his hearing aids were there on the table beside his chair, I asked him why he did not wear them. With a wry smile and a twinkle in his eye, he said, "Jim, there are just some things that you don't want to hear." I smiled and said, "Yes sir." I wondered what particular application he was making. At first, I thought maybe it was my mother-in-law, or maybe some of the other family members, but the longer I sat there the more I realized that I was the only person in the room. Whatever he was tuning out it certainly was not worth pressing for him to wear his hearing aid.

I never spoke elder speak to either of my parents, my in-laws, my grandparents, or aging aunts and uncles. In fact, I cannot recall using it at all. The bottom line of encouragement to my own heart as well as to yours is that we should not speak down to people or even speak up to them. We should speak on line with them — who we are to who they are in kindness and understanding.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

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Media

Awards Competition

Deadline for Entries:

Entries must be in the office of
Communication Services at the
Baptist Building no later than
March 5, 2009, 4:45 pm

JUST FOR THE RECORD

10. First Church, Eupora, will host the Chuck Wagon Gang Mar. 5, 7 p.m.; doors open, 6 p.m. A love offering will be received.

11. Yalobusha Association is sponsoring a Youth-Fest March 5, 7 p.m., and March 6, 6 p.m. with free burgers, at the Yalobusha County Multipurpose Building. Sammy

Nuckolls, speaker; Tom Edwards Band, music.

12. Antioch Church, Union, will be having their wild game supper Feb. 27, with speakers David Fortenberry and Gene Hoyt. Supper at 5:30 p.m.; presentation at 6:30 p.m. Door prizes will be given.

13. The Timeless Treasures Women of Holcomb Church, Holcomb, will be having a sale of Brunswick stew Feb. 20 1 - 2 p.m. at the Holcomb Community Center. Takeout, \$5/quart, \$20/gallon.

14. Ebenezer Church, Attala Association, recently licensed Kenny Gentry to preach. Shown are pastor Larry Harvey, Myrtis Gentry, Gentry, Angel Gentry, and Makenleigh Gentry. Gentry is available for supply preaching.

15. Jerusalem Church, Kosciusko, ordained Eugene Chennault as deacon Jan. 10. Shown are Paul Cook, Billy Pettit, Chennault, pastor Johnny Parks, Lamar Pettit, and Charles Odom.

16. Bunker Hill Church, Columbia, licensed Dudley Williamson to the ministry Jan. 31. Shown are Williamson, his wife Lisa, and pastor Randy Gardner.

17. Dennis McCall, agricultural missionary to East Africa, will be the featured speaker at the annual meeting of the Agricultural Development Foundation to be held at First Church, Starkville on February 27. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., with lunch provided at the church.

18. Immanuel Church, Hattiesburg, AWANA T&T and Cubbies were able to converse via webcam with the Grissoms, a NAMB missionary family currently in St. John's, Newfoundland. Steve, Sheena, Sierra, Steven, Shelby, and Sadie Grissom are entering an unfunded fourth year in Newfoundland as church planters under the NAMB Nehemiah Project, a 3-year church planting project. Shown are the participants.



BAPTISTS

STAFF CHANGES

1. Forest Church, Forest, has called Scott Fortenberry as pastor. He comes from Ferndale Church, Ferndale, Fla. Shown are Fortenberry, his wife Candiss, and children Andrew, Avery, and Eli.

2. First Church, Flora, has called Joe Cole as pastor. The Coles previously served churches in Camden, Ala., and Benoit.

3. Grace Church, Philadelphia, has called Chester Carlisle as pastor. Shown are Carlisle, his wife, deacon chairman Tony Sharp, and minister of music Tim Moore.



1. The Fortenberrys



2. The Coles



3. The Carlises

14. Gentry licensing

15. Chennault ordination

16. Williamson licensing

18. Immanuel Church, Hattiesburg

JUST FOR THE RECORD



2. Pine Grove Church, Dumas



3. Highland Church, Laurel



4. Longview Church, Starkville



5. Beulah Church, Newton County

1. First Church, Vicksburg, surpassed its goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering by giving \$39,150.27 for the offering. Connie Tanner, Women on Missions director.

2. Pine Grove Church, Dumas celebrated its 100th anniversary Oct. 25, 2009. Former pastors attending the event were Paul Roaten, Joe Epting, Jerry Guest, Terry Ledbetter, Harvey Sewell, and present pastor Bill Foley.

3. Highland Church, Laurel, ordained three men as deacon Jan. 31. Shown are transitional pastor Don H. Steward, deacons Mike Hicks, Stephen Kneipp, and Rob Winpiger, and AMD Allan Nix.

4. The WMU of Longview Church, Starkville, celebrated the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering with a skit, cake, and their 5th Sunday dinner. The church surpassed their goal of \$1000 by collecting \$2380. Shown are some of the participants.

5. Beulah Church, Newton County, awarded trophies to its Bible drill participants. Shown are Monica Culpepper, Graham Murphree, Lacey Harrison, and Courtney Lanier. Barbara Harrison and Karen Lanier, leaders.

6. The children's choir of Goodwater Church, Enterprise, presented Sheep, Shepherds, and A Savior Dec. 20, 2009. Shown are the participants.

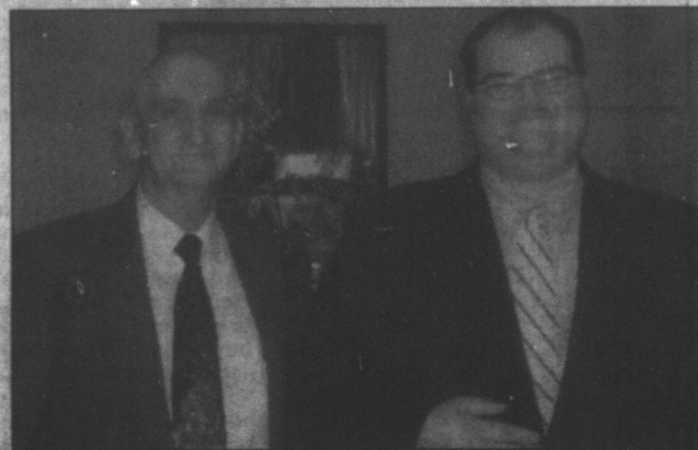
7. Crystal Ridge Church, Winston Association, recently ordained Zach Eaves to the ministry. He is serving as pastor of West Side Church, Macon. Shown are Tommy Jones and Eaves.

8. Red Creek Union Church, Vestry, ordained Sidney Shawn Hataway as pastor Jan. 24. Shown are Hataway and his wife, Tami.

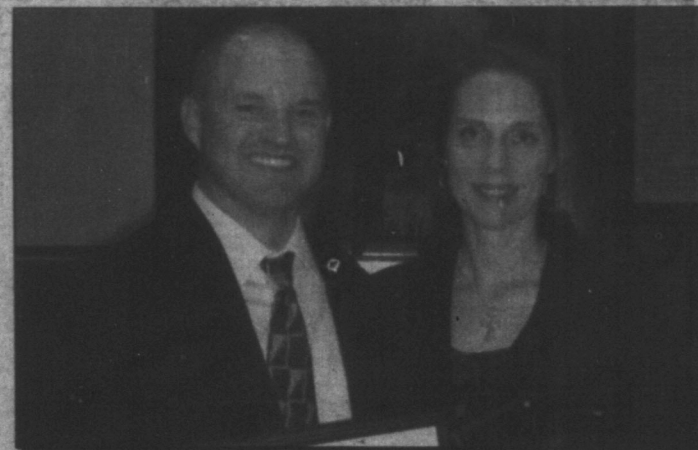
9. Grandview Church, Pearl, held a super soup cook-off to raise money for the youth to attend summer camp. Shown are Chris Kennedy, Sherry Flanagan, Lynn Weems, Glenda Chappell, winner Carolyn Tindall, Joyce Myers, Debra Boyd, and Kristi McMillan.



6. Goodwater Church, Enterprise



7. Eaves ordination



8. The Hataways



9. Grandview Church, Pearl

Olympic gold medalist intent on living Christian life

VANCOUVER (BP) — Olympic gold medalist Chad Hedrick certainly thinks he has the ability to contend for more hardware at this year's Winter Olympics in Vancouver, but more important than medals to Hedrick is the opportunity this year's Olympics will give him to talk about his newfound faith in Jesus Christ and to show the world the way in which the Lord has changed him.

"I want people to see God in my life," Hedrick said.

The 2010 version of Hedrick is a long way from the Hedrick of old — the Hedrick who, according to his Wikipedia page, earned the nickname "the Paris Hilton of speedskating" for his active nightlife.

He grew up in Houston, which he says is probably the last place that an ice speedskater would be raised. Hedrick's dad owned a roller rink, so Hedrick was a self-described "rink rat" as a kid. He started roller skating at age two and spent several hours a day on wheels until age 12.

By then, inline skates were the rage so Hedrick switched and began competing on an international level as an inline skater. He was a world champion for nine straight years and began to have aspirations of competing in the Olympics. He switched again to the ice to pursue that dream and within 18 months, he won the world championship in 2004.

Olympic glory soon followed,

as Hedrick won three medals at the 2006 Olympics in Torino, Italy — gold in the 5,000 meters, silver in the 10,000 meters, and bronze in the 1,500 meters.

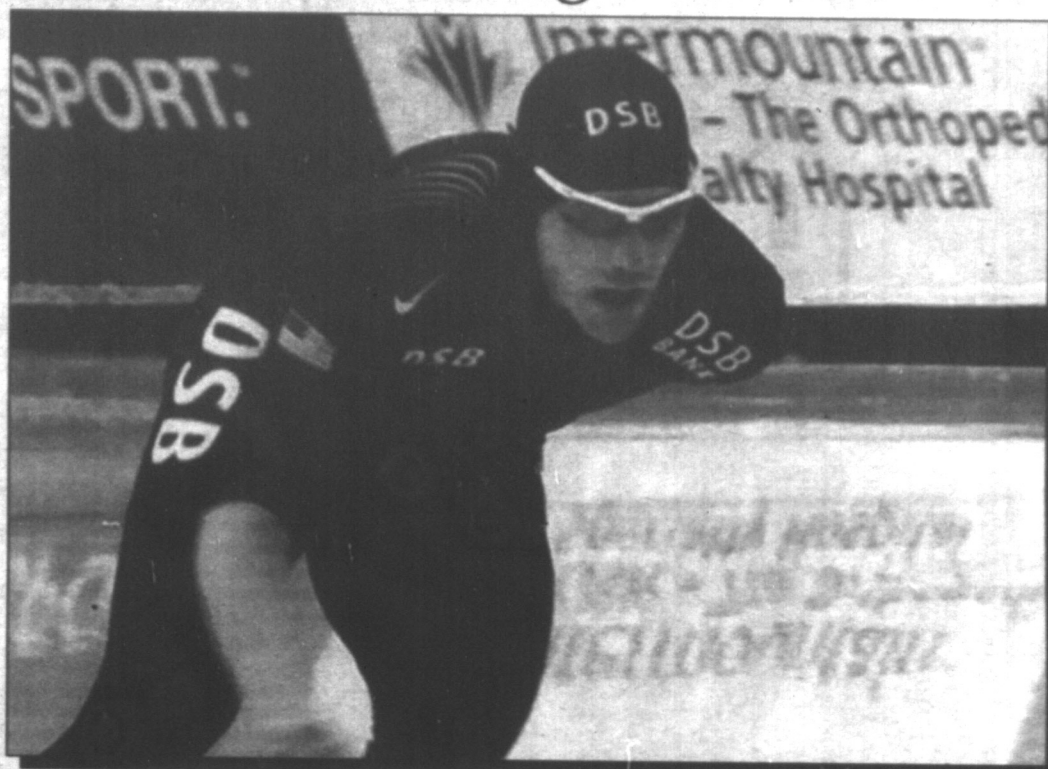
All the success did little to provide purpose for Hedrick's life. "You grow up and when people ask you if you're a Christian, the proper thing to say is, 'Yeah, I'm a Christian,'" Hedrick said, "but saying you're a Christian and living like a Christian are two completely different things."

Hedrick in recent months began noticing how people around him were living, including the quality of the lives of those who professed to be Christians. He was intrigued by what he saw. He began asking questions of those people and investigating Christianity, ultimately choosing to place his faith in Christ and be baptized at Champion Forest Church in Spring, Texas, in November.

His wife Lynsey was baptized with him. "Now I don't just say I'm a Christian," Hedrick said. "Now I live like one."

The transformation in Hedrick's life was speedy and significant. Whereas before, Hedrick was abrasive and rough, especially when he lost a competition, now he's a better sport. Before, he had a "me against the world" mentality, in which he felt a strong compulsion to prove that he was the best. Now he says his values and his perspective are different.

His personality, he said, has been polished by God. "I real-



CHANGED MAN — U.S. skater Chad Hedrick found faith in Christ after winning a gold medal in the 5000 meter at the 2006 Winter Olympics. (BP photo)

ize that whatever happens, if I go and give 100%, God has avenues that He wants me to follow," Hedrick said.

"With every experience I have in life He's trying to teach me something and point me in the direction that He thinks I should go."

For now, that direction is

Vancouver, where Hedrick will compete in four events — the 5,000 meters, 1000 meters, 1500 meters, and team pursuit. No matter the outcome of those races, Hedrick says he will be content, especially if his story causes others to note the way that his life has changed.

"I feel like I'm — I don't

want to be conceited and say a role model — but I'm proof that somebody who had an active nightlife as the wild guy in his sport could even see the light and made the best of the situation," Hedrick said.

"When people see that I'm a Christian, there's proof that even the wild guy can find the light."

Haitian 'lawyer' suspect in child prostitution ring



SQUALID CONDITIONS — CNN's Anderson Cooper visited the Haiti prison, seen here in a screen capture, where the jailed Baptist volunteers are being held. One American held there for three days said two five-gallon buckets served as the bathroom facilities. (CNN)

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A legal adviser to some of the 10 American missions volunteers detained in Haiti may be a suspect in an El Salvador child prostitution ring, but the Haitian judge overseeing the volunteers' case said the development may have no bearing

on their fate.

Jorge Puello, who apparently volunteered his services to the jailed Baptists, was identified by his mother Feb. 13 as a fugitive sought by Salvadoran police, the Miami Herald reported. Puello's common-law wife, Ana Orellana, was con-

victed in the case in 2009 but her husband managed to flee the country before trial.

Puello's legal problems, however, are separate from the Americans' case, said Bernard Saint-Vil, the presiding judge, on Feb. 13.

"At this point, the two cases have nothing to do with each other," Bernard Saint-Vil, the investigating magistrate, said in a telephone interview with The Wall Street Journal. "I have no indication that Mr. Puello knew the missionaries before their arrests. Unless we find something suggesting the opposite, we would have no reason to merge the two cases."

The magistrate also said he would consider a defense lawyer's petition for the Americans' release once the government prosecutor on the case has replied to the motion.

The volunteers were arrested Jan. 29 at the Haiti border as they tried to take 33 Haitian children into the Dominican Republic, allegedly without adequate paperwork from the Haitian government. Soon

after, several group members apparently hired Puello, who told them he was a lawyer from the Dominican Republic. He has been working as a spokesman for the group, hiring and firing Haitian attorneys and getting food delivered to the volunteers.

The Dominican Republic College of Attorneys, however, does not list Puello as a registered lawyer, news services report, and authorities in several countries are investigating his connection to the child-prostitution ring in El Salvador. Court records in the United States show an outstanding warrant for Puello on 1999 charges of carrying a false identification. His mother told the Miami newspaper her son had served prison time in the United States.

Attorneys for five of the jailed volunteers told reporters Puello himself never represented their clients. Puello has disappeared and one attorney he hired to represent nine of the volunteers told the Associated Press he had received only a

small part of the fee he was promised. Aviol Fleurant, however, refused to directly accuse Puello of stealing the rest.

In a Feb. 12 telephone interview, Puello declined to comment on the El Salvador case, telling the Associated Press he would be busy in court. Reporters, however, were unable to locate him in court and he did not return later phone calls. The website for Puello Consulting was taken down Feb. 12. Puello told The New York Times he had no connection to trafficking and said he had never been to El Salvador.

The volunteers were working with New Life Children's Refuge, a nonprofit organization founded in November 2009 by Laura Silsby, who led the team. Most of the volunteers are members of Central Valley Church in Meridian, Idaho, and East Side Church in Twin Falls, Idaho. One volunteer is a member of Paramount Church in Amarillo, Texas; another is from Bethel Church in Topeka, Kan.

How You Can help in Haiti – Right Away

Officials are concerned that an unprecedented disaster situation following the earthquake in Haiti is developing. Fears are that as many as 200,000 people may be dead and 3 million people homeless. The response from America will last weeks.



- 900 Southern Baptist Churches in Haiti
- 70 of these churches are in Port au Prince
- Mississippi and Kentucky are the lead states for international response for the month of January. Teams are on standby from these states to travel as soon as assessed needs can be known.

Here's what you can do

1. Pray

- o for the people of Haiti who have been devastated
- o for Haitian government officials who will be coordinating relief
- o for Haitian Christians as they recover and minister for the injured and displaced

2. Give

- o The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board is accepting donations to fund both the immediate needs and the long-term disaster relief efforts in Haiti.
- o Checks should be made payable to MBCB, with "Haiti Earthquake Relief" noted on the memo line, and mailed to:
MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD
HAITI DISASTER RELIEF
P.O. Box 530
JACKSON, MS 39205
- o Fully 100% of the donations (every penny) will be used directly to aid Haiti earthquake victims.

3. Get Organized to go

- o As needs and opportunities are identified
- o Up-to-date passport
- o Inoculations up to date
- o Self-sustained teams living in primitive conditions will be needed

4. For Additional Information

- o Contact the Disaster Relief Ministry of the MS Baptist Convention Board
- o 601-292-3334
- o or e-mail haitidisasterrelief@mbcb.org
- o Please check back often at www.mbcb.org for the latest updates

5. Share Contact Information

- o Many of our Mississippi Baptist Churches already have partnerships and connections with Baptist Churches in Haiti. If your church has a pre-existing connection to a church or ministry (orphanage, hospital, etc.) in Haiti, please share that information with the Disaster Relief Ministry of the MS Baptist Convention Board. 601-292-3334 or e-mail haitidisasterrelief@mbcb.org - THANK YOU

Visit us online at
www.mbcb.org/haiti

Laotian, Somalian, and Indian Christians persecuted

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Members of a church — both adults and children — in Laos' Saravan province were forced at gunpoint from a Sunday worship service in mid-January while officials confiscated their personal belongings and destroyed six of their 11 homes.

About Jan. 18, an estimated 100 local officials, police and villagers marched the believers to an open field, where they demanded the Christians renounce their faith, Human Rights Watch for Lao Religious Freedom reported. When the Christians refused, they were forced to walk nearly four miles down the road and police were posted at the village entrance to keep them from returning.

The Christians have been sleeping on the ground in nearby woods with hardly enough food supplies, equipment, or tools to survive, the Compass Direct news service reported.

In July 2008, a Christian in the village was killed by other villagers and when family members placed a cross on his grave, officials accused them of "practicing the rituals of the enemy of the state" and seized livestock from them as a fine, Compass reported.

A few days later, officials detained 17 of the village's 20 Christian families in a school compound, denying them food until they signed documents

renouncing their faith. All the families eventually complied but some later began assembling for worship again. In spite of the persecution, more households accepted Christ in the village this past year, bringing the total of Christian households to 11.

"These tactics of starvation and destruction of personal properties as well as the use of force employed by the Lao officials in order to put pressure on the Katin believers to renounce their religious convictions should be condemned," a statement from the human rights group said.

Somalia leader slain

Militants of the al Shabaab Islamic extremist group murdered the leader of an underground church in Somalia on Jan. 1 after they heard he had organized New Year's Day festivities for Christians to take place outside of Mogadishu, Somalia's capital.

Mohammed Ahmed Ali, 41, was killed sometime after leaving his home in Hodan, on the outskirts of Mogadishu, at about noon, the Compass Direct news service reported. His wife, Amina Ibrahim Hassan, told Compass she received threatening calls from members of al Shabaab on Jan. 3, saying, "We know who you are working for. We also know your home and that you are a follower of the Christians, and we are going to kill you the

way we killed your husband."

Hassan and the couple's only child, a two-year-old son, fled to a refugee camp on the Kenya border and stayed there a few days before continuing to the home of relatives in Nairobi, Kenya, where she arrived Jan. 20.

In 2009, Islamic militants in Somalia killed at least 15 Christians, including women and children, for their faith, Compass reported.

Aid withheld

Thousands of Christians in India's Orissa state still live in makeshift shanties along roadsides and in forests a full 18 months after Hindu extremists forced them from their homes in a spasm of violence that claimed more than 100 lives and destroyed nearly 4,900 homes and church buildings.

Government officials have failed to provide promised assistance to more than 10,000 families driven from their homes after Christians were falsely accused of killing a Hindu leader in August 2008, Raphael Cheenath, a Roman Catholic archbishop, told Compass Direct Feb. 6.

"The block officers have been playing with the facts, indulging in corrupt practices and cosmetic exercises whenever political and other dignitaries come to visit or inspect," Cheenath said in a statement. "Innocent people are coerced into giving a false picture ... This is a national calamity."

Cheenath's comments came the day after a European Union (EU) delegation concluded a visit to Orissa that Hindu nationalist leader Jugal Oram called "interference into internal affairs of a sovereign independent member

state under the U.N.," Compass Direct reported. EU representative Gabriele Annis said the delegation was able to hold "open and frank" discussions with officials during the visit.

Christian leaders in the area said district authorities attempted to hide the plight of Christians by evacuating nearly 100 people from one village prior to the EU delegation's visit.

Of 3,232 complaints filed with police after the 2008 violence, only 832 cases were formally registered, Cheenath said. Of that number, only 123 cases have been transferred to courts. Of 71 cases tried to date, convictions have been handed down in 25 cases. Nine of 10 murders have been closed without any conviction.

"Who will bring justice in the case of the nine murder cases?" Cheenath asked.

COLLEGE NEWS

1. **Mississippi College** will present the comic opera *Too Many Sopranos* Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. and Feb. 28 at 2:30 p.m. in the Jean Pittman Williams Recital Hall in the Aven Fine Arts building. General admission is \$5. For more information regarding this event, call (601) 925.3440.

2. New York City hosted the National Moot Court competition with the Mississippi College School of Law turning in a strong second-place finish. Prior to the final round Feb. 4, MC's moot court team defeated Emory University, the University of Seattle, Texas Tech and the University of Georgia. The University of Arkansas law school ended up No. 1 team in the competition. Sponsored by the New York City Bar and the American College of Trial

Lawyers, the National Moot-Court competition is one of the oldest and largest of its type in the USA. Each year, more than 150 law schools take part in regional rounds before the winners advance to the finals in New York City. This year, 178 law schools competed in the regionals.

3. **William Carey University** art major Skoti Newsum of Hurley received the Best in Show award for her one of three works chosen for exhibit at the Mississippi Collegiate Art Competition at the University of Mississippi Museum. The exhibit will hang through March 6. Newsum's works were among five total works selected for exhibit by Carey students. Camille Caver, a religion major from Terry, and Abby Livengood, an art major

from Carriere, had one piece each chosen. There were 105 pieces chosen from a total of 1199 total entries in the competition. Newsum, Caver and Livengood will also have their works exhibited at the 2010 WCU Student Show which will include student art work from both the Hattiesburg and Tradition campuses. The university student show runs April 19 through 30 from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. Monday through Friday in Lucile Parker Gallery on the Hattiesburg campus. For more information contact Read Diket, director of art study on the Hattiesburg campus, at rdiket@wmcarey.edu or (601) 318-6205 or Chatham Meade, Lucile Parker Gallery director, at cmeade@wmcarey.edu or (601) 318-6528.

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. **Meadowview Church, Starkville:** Revival, Feb. 21 – 24; Sun., 10:15 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon. – Wed., 7 p.m.; Rodney Keith, speaker; Steve & Becky Carver, music.
2. **Rolling Creek Church, Quitman:** Revival, Feb. 21 – 24; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. – Wed., 7 p.m.; Joe Gullick, speaker; church choir, music; Ronnie Cooper, pastor.
3. **First Church, Batesville:** Revival, Feb. 27 – Mar. 1; Sat., BBQ supper, 6 p.m.; worship, 7 p.m.; Sun., high attendance in Sunday School, 9 a.m.; worship, 10:15 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon., worship, 7 p.m.; Ron Herrod, speaker; Bob Smith, music.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

What's On Your Mind?

Colossians 3:1-14

By Barbara Brown

"Let the mind of the Master be the master of your mind." (Anonymous)

Have you ever heard someone excuse his behavior with words like these: "I can't help it, that's just the way I am," "My mom was hot-tempered, so that's all I know," "I'm only human," "He knew who I was before we made this deal together," or even "You're going to have to accept me as I am. It's the way God made me." We have let the world tell us that it is acceptable to justify our actions and words based on our human nature. What is worse, believers have even bought into this worldly way of thinking.

Paul teaches us that for believers, however, this is the wrong way of thinking. He says in Colossians 3:1-2, "Since

then you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things." We CAN choose to deliberately, on a daily basis, "set our minds" on being and doing the things that reflect the mind of Christ in us. The grace of God poured out on His children makes it possible for us to live victoriously, rising above the excuses.

Out with the Old

We begin this new way of thinking by tossing out, taking off, and completely rejecting the old way of thinking and living. Paul says, "You used to walk this way....but now you must rid yourselves of all such things" (3:7-8a). To make it easy on us, Paul, in verses 8-9, lists the things that we, as children of the Lord,



Brown

CAN toss out, take off, and completely reject:

- Anger - mad at things/people
- Rage - temper tantrums, violent acts
- Malice - desire for revenge
- Slander - attacking the character of another
- Filthy language - use of crude, foul words

Lying - misrepresenting the truth

Lest we be tempted to try, we can not just cover up the old stuff with some stuff that looks good. That would be like a man who puts on a clean shirt over the sweaty one he just mowed the yard in. Paul says in Romans 8:12-13, "Our duty is not to live under the control of our sinful nature. If you live under the control of your sinful nature, you will die. But by the power of the Holy Spirit you can put to death the sins your body commits. Then you will live." (NIV)

On with the New

Paul doesn't leave us to guess what must replace the old; he

lists for us seven qualities that reflect the mind and temperament of Christ (v. 12-14). Once we take off the old by "putting to death whatever belongs to our sinful nature," (v.5) we CAN put on these new fresh replacements:

- Compassion - thinking of others with empathy
- Kindness - the actions that reveal our compassion to others
- Humility - thinking of others as better than ourselves
- Gentleness - meekness
- Patience - longsuffering
- Forbearance - holding another person up with encouraging words or actions
- Forgiveness - completely letting go of all grudges, judgments, anger, and hurt caused by another person

These qualities are tied up, held together, and made more beautiful by love; the kind of love that led Jesus to die a death He did not deserve for a people He loved unconditionally.

How to Put on a New Mind

The mind controls the heart. So a new heart begins with a new mind. A new mind is one which has made a choice to be a

Christ-follower, believing in and relying completely on the finished work of Jesus on the cross. A new mind is one which is convinced that the grace of God is sufficient. A new mind is occupied with the things of God and is dedicated to developing the character of Christ in his life. As a new creature in Christ, you CAN stop wrong thinking. You CAN stop the habits, attitudes, and actions that come from wrong thinking. You CAN, because in you is a new Spirit - the Spirit of God Himself and you are now clothed in His righteousness. You CAN have a new mind focused, as the famous hymn says, on things above.

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.*

(Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus by Helen H. Lemmel, 1922)

Brown is children's minister, Colonial Heights Church, Ridgeland.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

When You Have Difficult Decisions

Mark 14:32-39; 41-50

By Malcolm Woody

Jesus and the disciples are on the move. After the Passover meal they emerge from the upper room and you follow at a distance full of wonder concerning where they are going so late. You recognize that the treasurer, Judas Iscariot, is not among them. He is probably securing provisions for the remaining days of Passover. As Jesus talks, the faces of the disciples are long with despair. You wish you were closer.

After they arrive at the pool of Siloam, they pass through Hezekiah's tunnel, then beyond Gihon Spring, crossing the Kidron valley to the garden of the ancient olive trees known as Gethsemane. The way is dark and difficult. The garden is a favorite spot for the group on the slopes of the Mount of Olives.

The Teacher's face looks different. There is agony written across it. You faintly hear Him tell them to sit while He goes to pray. He summons the brother's James and John, and the one they call "Rock" to go with Him. You edge in closer behind an olive tree of rare size.

"My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch. (Mk 14:34 NIV)", He tells them. They do as told and Jesus continues on as you reposition ahead of Him becoming increasingly concerned by His appearance. He is drenched in sweat and visibly disturbed, when suddenly He drops to His knees and begins to pray.

"Abba, Father, everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will,



Woody

but what you will (Mk 14:36 NIV)." He then returns to the three, who were to keep watch, finding them sleeping away the night. He wakes them and departs to pray again. This time you stay near the three and watch as they fall back to sleep in short order. When Jesus returns, He finds them sleeping again as a mob of people approach, being led by none other than the treasurer, Judas.

This is not an ordinary mob, but a war party. There are soldiers and guards all toting clubs and swords. There is talk, but you aren't close enough to hear it. You watch as the war party falls clumsily to the ground (Jn 18:6). After more words, Peter rushes forward, striking the one known as Malchus with his sword. It appears Jesus heals the wound and then is taken into custody without a fight. The followers run away as fast as their legs will carry them, one even runs

out of his clothing. The tables have finally been turned on Jesus and those who followed will surely be next.

Much has been written about Jesus and his "agony" in the garden. This Jesus we find a little hard to swallow, perhaps too human in this moment for our liking. Regardless, the moment is well documented and we must ask ourselves what can be learned. Certainly, there is much we can learn about Jesus, but what can we learn from this event that applies to our lives?

First, when all else fails, pray. In our most troubling time, prayer is a good first step. Usually these moments are rife with tough decisions and prayer will always play a critical roll in discerning God's will. Jesus prayed often and on this night the prayer exposes His trepidation as He asks for the cup to be passed from Him. However, He submits to the Father's will as His own desires are set aside.

Second, when difficulties

arise and you face temptations, remember, Christ has been there. The writer of Hebrews is clear that Jesus experienced what we face while on earth. We have a High Priest who endured the world and triumphed without sin (Heb. 4:15). Simply put, "Such a High Priest meets our need - (Heb. 7:26a NIV)." He is with us in our difficulties.

Third, Jesus did not flee the trouble that was coming, but faced it knowing He was solidly in the will of the Father. In truth, we prefer to run from these moments (right out of our clothes like the one unnamed disciple), or like Peter, we would sometimes draw our sword in desperation exerting our own control over the matter. Jesus shows us how to face the mob and trust Him. The truth is, the mob is never a match for the One you have in Your corner, so go on boldly and face your problems. He is with you.

Woody is a member of Broadmoor Church, Madison.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

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THE BAPTIST Record

THE VILLAGE VIEW



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GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with tact and respect, those who are, and have been, special to our special friends.

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Mississippians Chapman, Rankin honored for service

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho (BP and local reports) — Joint resolutions by the Fellowship of State Executive Directors and the Association of State Baptist Papers honored the service of two Southern Baptist Convention leaders, both native Mississippians, who have announced their intentions to retire this year.

In statements Feb. 10, the groups representing 42 state conventions honored Morris H. Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville, and Jerry Rankin, president of the International Mission Board (IMB) in Richmond, Va.

Chapman is a native of Kosciusko. Rankin grew up in Clinton and Tupelo. Both are graduates of Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton.

Chapman, who is set to retire Sept. 30, is completing 18 years of service in his leadership position and 50 years in the ministry, and Rankin will have served 17 years as president of the IMB and 40 years total with the entity when he steps down July 31.

The resolutions were presented during a dinner in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, celebrating the work and ministries of the churches of the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention. State convention executive directors and state convention newspaper editors hold a joint meeting in February of each year at different locations around North America.

Rankin and his wife Bobbye, also a native Mississippian, were recognized for their ministry in churches in two Texas communities — Rankin served as an associate pastor in Fort Worth and as pastor in Sadler — and as long term missionaries with the International Mission

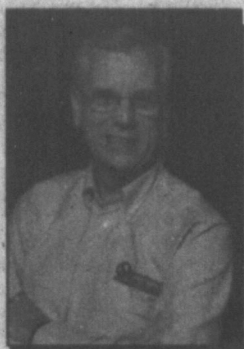
Board. Tribute was given to Rankin, who could not attend the meeting due to a scheduling conflict, for leading the IMB during a period of growth in the number of missionaries and in the number of previously unreached people groups who are now engaged by Southern Baptists.

When Rankin was elected IMB president in 1993, nearly 4,000 missionaries were deployed in 142 countries. Last year more than 5,500 IMB workers engaged 101 new people groups for a total of 1,190.

The resolution also noted Rankin's service with the IMB as general evangelist in East Java and Surabaya, Indonesia; associate area director for South and Southeast Asia; administrator for SBC mission work in India; area director for Southern Asia and the Pacific; and expressed gratitude for his "excellent service to the International Mission Board."

Chapman and wife Jodi were thanked for their service in ministry together, and Chapman was honored for his pastorates in Rogers, Texas; Waco, Texas; Albuquerque, N.M.; and Wichita Falls, Texas.

The statement also recognized Chapman's leadership as Southern Baptist Convention president and president of the Executive Committee during a span of time when the convention settled its consensus theological convictions with the passage of the Baptist Faith and Message 2000; streamlined SBC entities through the Covenant for a New Century; took important steps in racial reconciliation; and initiated "an invigorated emphasis on the Cooperative Program and stew-



Rankin



MISSISSIPPIANS HONORED — Morris H. Chapman, a Kosciusko native who will retire Sept. 30 after 18 years as president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, is joined by his wife Jodi, also a native Mississippi, in being honored during the Fellowship of State Executive Directors annual meeting in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho. At right is the fellowship's president, Bill Mackey, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Jerry Rankin, who grew up in Clinton and Tupelo, was also recognized for his announced retirement as president of the International Mission Board. (BP photo)

ardship, and a focus on healthy church growth through the Empowering Kingdom Growth initiative."

The two groups thanked Chapman for "his excellent service to Southern Baptists."

Chapman shared his appreciation for the recognition and thanked God for "the privileges that we've had to serve Him and to serve Southern Baptists."

"We give Him all the glory, and we

thank Him for the fellowship and the relationships that we've been able to build through the years," Chapman said. "We have great love for you, and pray that as you continue to serve the Lord in various ways, that He will enrich your lives and bless you and that it will all be to His glory."

The Rankins will retire to Clinton, while the Chapmans plan to stay in Nashville.

Popular Tebow messaging in danger of being banned by NCAA

INDIANAPOLIS (BP) — In what some are already calling the "Tim Tebow rule," the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Football Rules Committee is proposing that college football players be prohibited from writing anything on their eye black — the very types of messages the former Florida Gator quarterback and unabashed Christian made popular with various Bible verses.

The recommendation was made by the committee in an announcement on Feb. 11, and it now must be approved by the Playing Rules Oversight Panel.

The committee actually called the new rule a "clarification" because a rule that apparently would ban such messages already was in place. The clarification, which would take effect this fall, states, "if eye shade is worn it must be solid black with no words, numbers, logos or other symbols."

Eye black, or eye shade, is a dark, grease-like substance spread on the cheeks just below the eyes to minimize glare entering the eyes.

Tebow — the 2007 Heisman Trophy winner who just completed his senior season — was not mentioned although he popularized the eye black messaging trend and the nation noticed. On the same day that Florida played Alabama in the Southeastern Conference Championship Game on Dec. 5, the No. 1 Google "hot" search in the U.S. was John 16:33, the verse Tebow wore on his eye black.

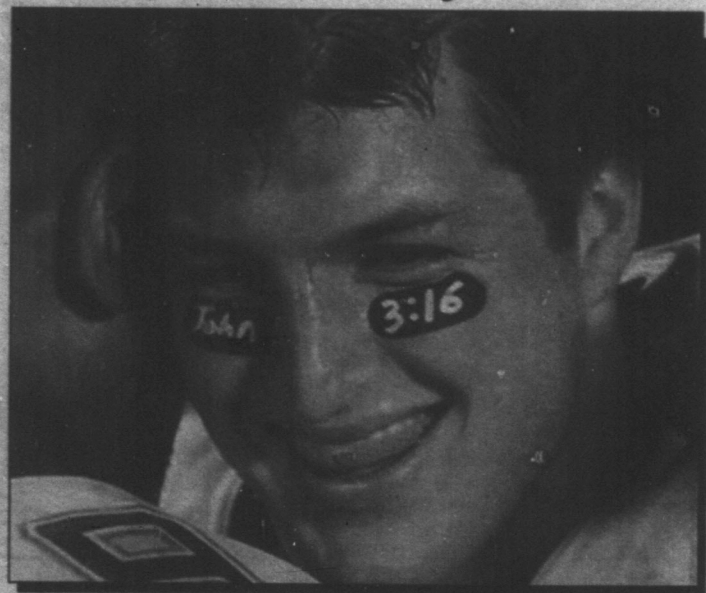
In fact, Tebow's Scripture choices were among the Top 10 Google searches in the U.S. during nearly every major Florida game in 2009. For the Sept. 19 game against Tennessee, his choice of Romans 8:28 was the No. 5 search. For the Oct. 10 game against LSU, 1 Thessalonians 5:18 was the No. 7 search. For the game against Florida State — his final home game — Hebrews 12:1-2 was the No. 3 search.

His choice of Ephesians 2:8-10 was the No. 4 search for the Jan. 1 Sugar Bowl. The Google trend dates back to the 2008 Bowl Championship Series Championship Game, when John 3:16 — Tebow's verse for that game — landed at the No. 1 spot.

Tebow's eye black was by far the most-followed eye shade in college football, but he wasn't the only one doing it. Former Oklahoma State quarterback Zac Robinson wore on his eye black the words "press on," taken from Philippians 3:14, a verse that was repeated by his father often at family gatherings. His father died in October.

Ohio State quarterback Terrelle Pryor also wore Bible verses on his eye black, including Philippians 3:14. Pryor, though, was involved in one of the more controversial instances of eye black when he wrote the word "Vick" under his left eye as a tribute to Michael Vick. Vick is a controversial figure to many because of his former ties to a dog-fighting ring, although at this year's Super Bowl he shared how his life has changed and how "I feel I'm in the back seat now and God is in the front."

The NCAA's football rules already prohibited "anything on the uniform other than a player's numbers; a player's name; NCAA Football logo; memorial recognition; the



BANNED? — Tim Tebow (right) popularized writing messages in the eye black used by many college football players. The NCAA is now looking to ban the practice as more and more players adopt the practice. (BP file photo)

American flag; or institution, conference or game identification. No other words, numbers or symbols are permitted

on a player's person or tape." The rule was part of the rules section on illegal equipment.

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